

CLAIMS

1. A morcellator, comprising:

(a) a rotatable electrode having a resistance to a flow of an electrical current and being heatable by the flow of the current through the rotatable electrode; and

(b) a drive system for rotating the rotatable electrode as the rotatable electrode is heated by the flow of the current.

2. The morcellator of claim 1 further comprising a source of the electrical current, the source being couplable to the rotatable electrode.

3. The morcellator of claim 1 further comprising an outer sheath housing at least some of the rotatable electrode.

4. The morcellator of claim 3 further comprising a vacuum source couplable to the outer sheath to provide suction.

5. The morcellator of claim 2 wherein the source generates a voltage of substantially greater than thirty volts and substantially less than sixty volts.

6. The morcellator of claim 2 wherein the source supplies the electrical current to the electrode so that the electrode is maintained at a temperature sufficient to comminute tissue.

7. The morcellator of claim 4 further comprising a tissue guider that is moveable with respect to the outer sheath to direct tissue to the rotatable electrode.

8. The morcellator of claim 4 wherein a proximal end of the tissue guider comprises a loop.

9. The morcellator of claim 1 wherein the drive system comprises a motor.

10. The morcellator of claim 2 further comprising a commutator coupling the electrode, the source, and the rotatable drive system to allow simultaneous heating and rotation of the electrode.

11. The morcellator of claim 7 further comprising a tissue guider controller coupled to the tissue guider to enable the guider to direct tissue to the rotatable electrode at a predetermined rate.
12. The morcellator of claim 11 wherein the guider controller comprises a spring.
13. The morcellator of claim 4 further comprising a catch container coupled to the vacuum source.
14. The morcellator of claim 3 further comprising a fluid source couplable to the outer sheath to provide irrigation fluid.
15. The morcellator of claim 1 further comprising an electrode interface circuit coupled to the electrode to provide information about a voltage drop across and the flow of the current through the rotatable electrode.
16. A method of morcellating tissue, comprising:
- (a) heating a rotatable electrode having a resistance to a flow of an electrical current by the flow of the current through the rotatable electrode; and
 - (b) rotating the rotatable electrode as the rotatable electrode is heated by a flow of the current to comminute tissue.
17. The method of claim 16 further comprising generating a current of substantially greater than one amp and substantially less than four amps.
18. The method of claim 16 further comprising removing comminuted tissue.
19. The method of claim 18 further comprising using irrigation fluid to remove comminuted tissue.
20. The method of claim 16 further comprising directing the tissue to the rotatable electrode to comminute the tissue.
21. The method of claim 20 further comprising directing the tissue to the rotatable electrode at a controlled rate.
22. The method of claim 16 further comprising providing information about a voltage drop across and the flow of the current through the rotatable electrode.

23. The method of claim 16 further comprises applying a voltage of substantially greater than thirty volts and substantially less than sixty volts to the rotatable electrode.

24. The method of claim 16 further comprising maintaining the electrode at a sufficient temperature to comminute tissue.

25. The method of claim 16 further comprising coupling the electrode with a source of electrical current and a rotatable drive system so that the electrode can be heated and rotated simultaneously.

26. A morcellator, comprising:

(a) means for heating a rotatable electrode having a resistance to a flow of an electrical current by the flow of the current; and

(b) means for rotating the rotatable electrode as the rotatable electrode is heated by the flow of the current.